

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Timber preservation plant safety code**

**Part 2: Plant operation**



**Standards Australia**



**STANDARDS**  
NEW ZEALAND  
PŌHĀRE AOTIAROA

## **AS/NZS 2843.2:2000**

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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee TM/6, Timber Preservation. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 11 February 2000 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 5 January 2000. It was published on 7 April 2000.

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The following interests are represented on Committee TM/6:

CSIRO, Division of Forestry and Forest Products  
Housing Industry Association, Australia  
Institution of Engineers, Australia  
National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals  
New Zealand Forest Research Institute  
New Zealand Timber Industry Federation  
New Zealand Timber Preservation Council  
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# Australian/New Zealand Standard™

## Timber preservation plant safety code

### Part 2: Plant operation

Originated as AS 2843.2—1985.  
Jointly revised and designated AS/NZS 2843.2:2000.

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee TM/6, Timber Preservation, to supersede AS 2843.2—1985.

The objective of this Standard is to promote the safe operation of treatment plants and to reduce environmental and occupational hazards.

This Standard incorporates information on, and the contents of, *The Australian environmental guidelines for copper chrome arsenate timber preservation plants*, which was prepared by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) and The Timber Preservers Association of Australia (TPAA). It also incorporates broad guidelines on the operation of non-CCA treatment plants; specific detailed requirements in these areas may be sourced from other appropriate authorities.

This Standard is Part 2 of the AS/NZS 2843 series on safety in timber preservation and is concerned with the operation of timber preservation plants.

The adoption of the requirements of this Standard will improve occupational safety in treatment plants and help lower environmental pollution.

The development of new technology is encouraged. If it can be demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the relevant authority that new technology, which may include cleaner and safer production strategies, obviates the need for some of the requirements of this Standard, the requirements of this Standard may be considered accordingly in respect of plants exclusively using such technology.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## FOREWORD

This Standard is directed towards improving the occupational health and safety of plant personnel and reducing environmental contamination resulting from the operation of timber preservation plants.

A timber preservation plant should be operated so as to minimize risk to the public and to those working therein, livestock and crops in the vicinity of the plant, and the environment generally including the quality of surface and sub-surface water.

This Standard is directed towards—

- (a) preventing the dispersion of hazardous chemicals to places other than where they are intended to be applied, namely, within the structure of preservative-treated timber; and
- (b) describing operating procedures designed to reduce the potential for exposure, and preserving the health risk of personnel engaged in the timber preservation operation by minimizing their physical contact with timber preservatives.

This Standard outlines operation procedures to reduce the potential danger associated with the use of various toxic chemicals in timber preservation plants. It is not intended to be definitive about plant operation.

Safety requirements are prescribed for the operation of timber preservation plants, and those responsible for this function should have a thorough understanding of the consequences of faulty operation and unsound practices.

All those responsible for the operation of such plants should be made aware of the requirements for safe and effective handling, storage and transport of pesticides. In this connection, attention is drawn to the AS 1678 series and AS 2508 series.

There are some prescribed procedures for the safe disposal of waste industrial chemicals, the safe disposal of waste material and the safe disposal of concentrate containers. These procedures have been established by various government agencies such as Departments of Agriculture and Environment Protection authorities. Staff involved in timber treatment operations should be conversant with procedures that apply to the location in which the timber preservation plant is to be operated.

Timber preservatives and treated timber, when used in the manner proposed in this Standard and as recommended in related Australian/New Zealand Standards, will present a much reduced hazard, both to those people who work with the products and to the public at large.

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

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## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard specifies requirements for the operation of timber preservation plants (hereinafter referred to as plant(s)). It deals in general terms with these aspects in a manner intended to reduce the occupational health risk to plant operators and to lower the potential for environmental pollution.

**1.2 APPLICATION**

This Standard is intended to be used by those responsible for the operation of a timber preservation plant. It is also intended to be of assistance to regulatory authorities responsible for approving and certifying timber preservation plants.

## NOTES:

- 1 This Standard is intended to have general application throughout Australia, but in New South Wales the Timber Marketing Act, 1977 and in Queensland the Timber Utilization and Marketing Act, 1987 require prior approval of a preservative treatment and registration of a brand before timber offered for sale in either of the States can be described as preservative-treated. Detailed information about the requirements of such legislation may be obtained from the State forestry departments concerned.
- 2 Appendix A lists the regulatory authorities involved in some aspects of timber preservation.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The documents referred to in this Standard are listed in Appendix B.

**1.4 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS/NZS 2843.1 apply.

**1.5 TRANSPORT AND STORAGE**

Timber preservative chemicals shall be transported in accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail*. They shall be transported direct to or from the chemical store or treatment tanks and shall not be off-loaded elsewhere in the timber preservation plant.

**1.6 IDENTIFICATION OF TIMBER-PRESERVATIVE CONTAINERS**

All storage containers of timber preservative materials shall be clearly identified by conspicuous labelling. The labels shall comply with the relevant requirements of the appropriate regulatory authority.